

COUNTRY

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Magdeburg

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 8 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 7 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 30 November 1952, the Herrenkrug Kaserne and Anger Kaserne, north of Breitscheidt Strasse, Magdeburg, were occupied by about 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Some of the officers wore artillery insignia. From 7 to 13 November, a total of 300 soldiers marched to the Zuckerbusch Kaserne, coming from the installations mentioned above. The same observation was made at other barracks installations. about 60 percent of the troops were shipped away from the Zuckerbusch Kaserne. No training activity was observed during the period of observation. The tanks of the unit stationed in the Herrenkrug Kaserne and the Anger Kaserne allegedly were stored in Gerwisch near Biederitz. The board fence surrounding the two installations was being heightened. Only supply vehicles were seen en route to the installation.

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2. On 28 November, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Jerichower Strasse was occupied by an estimated 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. From 19 to 30 November, mainly fatigue duty was performed and, occasionally, drill.
3. On 30 November, the Nachrichten Kaserne, east of Turmschanzen Strasse was occupied by an estimated 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The troops mainly engaged in fatigue duty and, occasionally, drilled in small groups. Supply trucks were seen driving to the installation.

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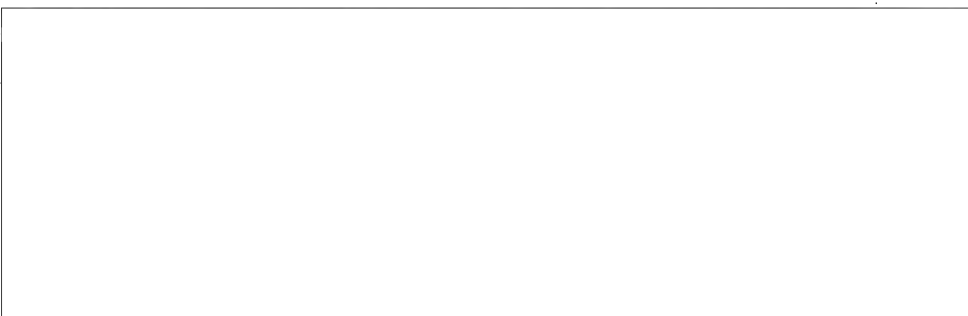


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5. On 30 November, the Seeckt Kaserne east of Tumnschanzen Strasse was occupied by an estimated 300 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia. Reconditioning work of engineer equipment and occasional physical training were observed in the installation.

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7. On 29 November, the Zuckerbusch Kaserne was occupied by about 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. No training activity or vehicular traffic were observed.

8. On 29 November, the Flak Kaserne in Cracau was occupied by an estimated 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, with the sentries wearing motor transport insignia. An unidentified number of 37-mm and 81-mm AA guns was seen in the installation. An undetermined number of 20-mm AA guns mounted on trucks with soldiers who received instruction was also seen.



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9. On 18 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied to capacity. All quartering buildings were lighted after nightfall. Trucks carrying pontoons were seen through the open door of a wooden shed.

10. The Zuckerbusch Kaserne probably was occupied by a ration supply depot rather than troops. On 17 November, about 50 engineer soldiers were seen constructing two wooden sheds, each about 40 to 50 meters long. At about 4 p.m., the soldiers were marching to the Seeckt Kaserne. The suburb on Adalbert Strasse southwest of Zuckerbusch Kaserne was being surrounded by a high wooden fence. On 17 November, a sentry wearing blue-bordered black epaulets was seen at the gate.

11. The Liebknecht Strasse was blocked by a 2-meter high board fence near the Encke Kaserne, and the Beim Strasse was blocked by driving piles.

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Numerous vehicles and pedestrians, mainly officers, including field grade officers of various branches of service, were seen leaving and entering the installation.

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12. [redacted] on the Alte Elbe River, about 100 meters north of the Herrenkrug Kaserne, work being done on the open end of a bridge from two pontoons. Boards were piled up on the bank. At 2:30 p.m. on 18 November, an officer and 30 engineer troops were seen at the construction site. A device [redacted] was a Nile driver was on the bank of the river. [redacted] the soldiers seen there were training.

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13. From 29 November to 3 December, the Flak Kaserne was occupied about 50 percent. Truck [redacted] towing a 76.2-mm AA gun was seen entering the installation on 3 December. A total of about 200 troops in groups of about 10 were seen at individual training in the barracks yard. Trucks seen en route to the installation

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14. Prior to 3 December, only 2 stories of a quartering building of the Zuckerbusch Kaserne were not occupied to capacity. Motor vehicles seen in the garages and in the barracks yard, according to available information, belonged to the Seckt Kaserne.
15. Prior to 3 December, maintaining of motor vehicles was performed in the repair shops in the east section of the Nachrichten Kaserne. The west section of the installation was occupied about 75 percent. From 17 to 20 November, about 200 recruits almost daily were seen training north of the installation. A number of these recruits organized in groups of 3 were seen engaged in laying out small items which they covered with grass in designated places. On 1, 2 and 3 December, four details each of 10 soldiers and each group with 4 x 120-mm mortars, and another detail of 35 soldiers with 2 officers were seen leaving the installation for the open terrain east of the Hindenburg Kaserne. On 8 December, 4 x 120-mm mortars each with a crew of 8 soldiers were leaving the east section of the installation, while 230 troops armed with machine guns and carbines left the west section of the installation. On 9 December, 4 x 76.2-mm guns each with a crew of 12 soldiers and, on 10 December, 3 x 76.2-mm guns each with a crew of 12 soldiers were seen leaving the west section of the installation. Truck [redacted] entered the west section of the installation.

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16. On 3 December, the Herrenkrug Kaserne was fully lighted after nightfall. No details were obtained.¹

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17. From 29 November to 3 December, numerous officers left and entered the Encke Kaserne. Most of the officers and EM seen were blue-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia.

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18. From 11 to 18 November, the Flak Kaserne appeared to be occupied to capacity. following guns:
 2 x 37-mm AA and 2 x 76.2-mm AA guns. Groups of 8 troops each engaged in service of piece drill on all four guns. A number of troops received instruction on two other 76.2-mm AA guns. At about 2:45 p.m., about 80 soldiers practiced firing at targets at a distance of 100 meters at the firing range northeast of Kopfenden Weg. On 17 November, 3 x 37-mm AA guns were in the barracks yard. Four 76.2-mm AA guns in firing position were about 80 meters east of building No 26 outside the installation. Earth was piled up about 50 cm high around each gun. Six sentries with submachine guns patrolled around the emplacement. About 500 unarmed troops wearing garrison caps were lined up in six rows on the athletic field. A military band was at a right angle to the rows. An officer, who stood on a platform, addressed the troops who, apparently, were not recruits. Sedan occupied by a colonel wearing red-bordered black epaulets. sedan occupied by a lieutenant colonel and sedan occupied by a major wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen en route to the installation.

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19. On 13 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied to capacity. At 9 a.m. on 23 October, 35 trucks and 12 trucks were loaded with pontoons and girders respectively, and 8 boxcarloads of troops were unloaded, at the Brueckfeld railroad station. The troops left for the Seeckt Kaserne. On 27 October, 50 to 60 trucks loaded with pontoons were in the barracks yard. Other trucks loaded with pontoons, the number of which could not be estimated, were in the north section of the installation. The construction of a board fence, 3 meters high, along Brueck Strasse and Turmschanzen Strasse was started on the same day, thus making observation from the street impossible. At 3:30 p.m. on 12 November, about 60 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets and carrying entrenching tools entered the installation, coming from the Kleiner Anger. At about noon on 17 November, three connected pontoons were seen just north of Herrenkrugbruecke (bridge) on the Elbe River. They mounted a cable winch with which about 25 to 30 soldiers lifted iron girders from water about 50 cm deep. Two majors and eight captains and lieutenants were on the bank.

20. Between noon and 1 p.m. on 17 November, about 150 troops wearing black-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets were seen engaged in leveling work and constructing embankments, about 50 cm high and 4 to 6 meters long on the Kleiner Anger. Several officers, including a senior lieutenant wearing red-bordered black epaulets with AT insignia, were also there. At the same time, about 30 soldiers armed with rifles and supervised by an officer practiced at the obstacle course, while another 30 soldiers practiced extended order and lying in prone position.

21. From 28 October to 3 November, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and an unidentified number of troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. [] they belonged to an artillery unit and a driving school. At 7 a.m. on 4 November, four trucks with mounted troops and towing guns were seen leaving the installation. No other training with heavy weapons was observed. Columns of 200 to 500 unarmed troops were seen leaving the installation in the evening hours at a rate of 2 to 3 times per week. On 28 October and 4 November, columns of this strength returned at 0:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. respectively.

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[] they returned from a long march.

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[] driving school trucks

[] were seen en route to the

installation."

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22. From 9 to 22 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied by an engineer unit. No details could be obtained on the number of troops stationed there, however, all quartering buildings were fully lighted after nightfall. Trucks carrying pontoons, about 5 meters long and about 1.5 meters high with slanting front section, were repeatedly seen in the barracks yard. Similar pontoons were stored at the engineer training site on the Alte Elbe River.

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23. From 9 to 22 November, the Nachrichten Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. All quartering buildings were lighted after sunset. Four guns of about 70-mm were seen in the barracks area. Up to about 100 soldiers were seen drilling in the barracks yard on several days during the time of observation.

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24. At 7 p.m. on 3 November, about 700 unarmed soldiers without equipment were detained in 18 boxcars at the Friedrichstadt railroad station.

25. On 2 November, about 450 troops, organized in platoons of 40 to 45, left the Falk Kaserne for the Friedrichstadt railroad station. The troops were being entrained in 11 boxcars. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried baggage. In spite of their departure, the installation, from 10 to 15 November, was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Many soldiers were seen in the barracks area and, occasionally, details were seen drilling. A double sentry was continually in front of two buildings, which were always locked.

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1. Comment. Information contained in the present report indicates no changes in the occupation of the Encke Kaserne, the Flak Kaserne and the Zuckerbusch Kaserne over a previous report. The 573d Mort Regt and the unidentified Gds RL battalion of the 19th Gds Mecz Div carried in the Flak Kaserne before the beginning of summer training, could not be confirmed in this installation, although these units are believed to be again stationed there. This as well as the fact that most of the strength figures given in the present report are too low, may be due to poor coverage because of strict security measures. The Seeckt Kaserne had already been reported occupied by units of the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GOFG since 21 October 1952. Information contained in the present report confirms the regiment stationed there until 30 November 1952. The Nachrichten Kaserne appeared to be only partly occupied on 27 October 1952. Before the beginning of the summer training, a mechanized regiment of the 19th Gds Mecz Div had been carried there. According to information contained in the present report.

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The 63d Gds Mecz Regt of the division may be stationed there. The Hindenburg Kaserne, as previously, is believed to be occupied by a motor transport unit and another unit of the division mentioned above or of the Third Shock Army. The Herrenkrug Kaserne and the Anger Kaserne are probably occupied by the 62d Gds Mecz Regt of the 19th Gds Mecz Div.

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The division headquarters, too, may be stationed there, as no confirmation of the presence at Hillersleben of the headquarters

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has been obtained and, regarding the occupation of Magdeburg, there is no other installation which could possibly quarter the headquarters. In this conjunction, the unidentified Gds signal battalion of the division may also be stationed in the installations mentioned above. It is not known, whether still other units are stationed there.

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